

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

ART. XIV.—*Summary of the Proceedings of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia.*

June 27. Hernia Cerebralis.—Dr. HUTCHINSON read the following account of two cases of this:—

Charles Fritz, aged 13 years, was admitted into the Pennsylvania Hospital during the night of Monday, July 5th, 1858. Late in the day he had been playing with gunpowder, which, after having moistened with saliva, he fired. Attempting now to pour more powder on the heap, the containing bottle was shattered by the explosion which followed, and fragments of it driven with such violence against the os frontis as to cause a compound comminuted fracture. Early next morning the attending surgeon removed some fragments of glass, together with some pieces of bone, in doing which a portion of the cerebrum protruded. His pulse was at this time 108; in the evening it was 90—presenting at neither time any great peculiarity. He was perfectly conscious, and had no paralysis; had during the day a slight convulsion, which, however, I did not witness. Pupils not particularly affected.

July 7. Boy continues conscious. A large quantity of broken-down cerebral matter was discharged from forehead. There is still no loss of motion or of sensibility. Bowels were moved by injection.

8th. Rather drowsy; answers, however, correctly when spoken to; there is a slight twitching of the lower extremities; he is unable to open right eye to full extent. Wine whey ordered.

9th. Jaetitation continues in an increased degree, the left leg being more violently convulsed than the right, the position of the wound being a little to the right of the median line. Pulse 72.

10th. Was delirious during night, and so disturbed the other patients in the ward that I was obliged to have him removed to the cells. When spoken to, however, his answers were correct and sensible.

11th. Pulse 60. Is much more tranquil; eats well; bowels are constipated; pupils still natural.

12th. Not much change in boy's condition. A small piece of glass was discharged to-day. He passed a very restless night; jaetitation is, however, less marked. Bowels never moved naturally.

13th. Quite a large piece of glass came away to-day. Is still conscious.

17th. Pulse has vacillated during the past few days between 60 and 72, being more often the latter. Another piece of glass came away to-day. Complaints of severe headache.

20th. Fungus of the brain has appeared, the portion protruding being about the size of a walnut. A solution of chloride of zinc, gr. ij to the fʒj, was applied upon it. Boy slightly delirious; headache excessive.

23d. Boy has become so very feeble that it is necessary to support him by means of milk punch. Pupils natural.

24th. For the first time, I noticed that the pupils were dilated. Is very restless; picked at the fungus with his fingers.

25th. Very ill; is unable to speak; made an effort to put out his tongue when told to do so. All the voluntary muscles of his body are rigidly contracted. Is still able to swallow. The attending surgeon removed the fungus with the knife; considerable hemorrhage followed, which was arrested with muriated tincture of iron. Death took place at seven o'clock, twenty days after occurrence of accident.

26th. An *autopsy* was made early this morning, twelve hours after death. The thoracic and abdominal cavities presented nothing abnormal.

The dura mater was much less adherent to the bone than natural. A small piece of glass and spiculæ of bone were found lying just within the brain.

The anterior lobes of both hemispheres were found to have been injured, especially, as had been supposed, the right, which was broken down into a pulsatous mass.

There was abundant evidence of the presence of inflammation in various parts of the brain—a quantity of pus being found at the base of the brain, and a sero-purulent liquid in the fourth ventricle.

The history of the second case, which terminated favourably, is as follows:—

Fungus Cerebri.—Dr. JAMES H. HUTCHINSON related the following case:—

Edward Stanley, aged 21 years, a native of England, a seaman by occupation, was brought to the Pennsylvania Hospital early in the morning of May 25th, 1858, with a compound depressed fracture of cranium, caused by an attempt at suicide with a pistol. Upon examination a lacerated wound over right parietal bone was discovered, and by means of a probe a depressed fracture of the bone was distinctly recognized. The bullet had been previously extracted.

The attending surgeon extended the wound, and finding it impossible to elevate the depressed portion, proceeded to the operation of trephining. In the course of the operation the wadding and several small pieces of bone were removed. The edges of the wound were lightly drawn together by means of adhesive strips, and the whole covered with a water dressing. In the evening pulse was 90. No loss of consciousness since his admission. To have gr. x of calomel in divided doses.

May 26. Pulse less frequent; he has had no unfavourable symptoms with the exception of severe headache.

28th. Pulse 65; headache continues. He does not answer immediately when spoken to. Says his mind is like a kaleidoscope, so confused. Bowels moved by sulphate of magnesia.

29th. Pulse was only 45 this morning; it rose to 60 in the evening. He has not slept well since his admission. The attending surgeon prescribed a small dose of sulphate of morphia.

June 1. Wound discharges freely a very offensive pus. Pulse varies in frequency, never rising above 60. Mind seems to be perfectly clear, but patient is indisposed to use it. He was moved to the cells to-day, as there was some indication of a renewed attempt at suicide.

3d. Condition of patient not materially different from that last noted. No bad effects from the morphia. Patient asked for a book to read. At no time has there been retention of urine.